

Ordinary Time, Proper 13



The Children's Illustrated Bible
pages 130–131

Squeaky-Clean David

Psalm 51 is the prayer of David asking God to forgive him. David had killed the husband of Bathsheba so he could have her for himself. Share this story (II Samuel 11-12) from *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Read Psalm 51:1, 2, 6-8, 10, 12. Discuss: Have you ever done anything you wish you hadn't? What did you do? Did you try praying to be forgiven? Did you ask others you might have hurt to forgive you?

For younger kids, bring a dirty baby doll from the nursery. Invite the kids to wipe away the dirt from the baby doll's face with a baby wipe or washcloth. Discuss how David asked God to wash him clean, taking away all the bad things that he had done. God can help us to be clean, too, just as we are helping these dolls be clean.

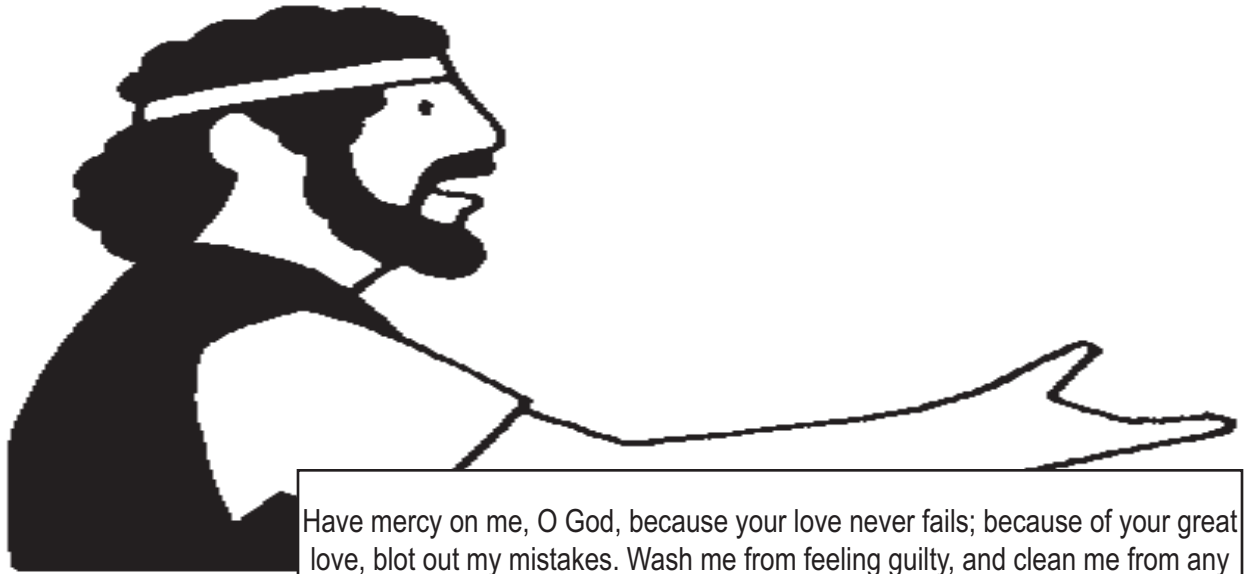
Have mercy on me, O God,
because your love never fails;
because of your great love,
blot out my mistakes. Wash me
from feeling guilty, and clean me
from any sin, God. You desire
honesty from my heart, so teach
me wisdom deep in my heart.
Forgive me and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow. Give me back my
joy again; now let me rejoice.
Create in me a clean heart, O
God, and put a new and right
spirit inside me.
—Psalm 51:1, 2, 6–8, 10
adapted



Every Which Way

On paper, create street signs such as: One Way, Two-Way Traffic, U-Turn, Left Turn, Right Turn, Stop, Yield, Slow, Merge, and No Outlet. On index cards, write out the Ten Commandments.

Set up a labyrinth-type activity, inside or outside using the street signs to direct the kids to different points where they will read one of the commandment cards. Play soft music to keep the kids focused on what they are doing. The last sign should lead them to a table set with a bowl and towels. Place a sign that says, "If you follow Jesus in every way, he will lead you home." At that place, the teacher washes the hands of the one behind them. When everyone is finished, have them gather and share a snack if desired.



Have mercy on me, O God, because your love never fails; because of your great love, blot out my mistakes. Wash me from feeling guilty, and clean me from any sin, God. You desire honesty from my heart, so teach me wisdom deep in my heart. Forgive me and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Give me back my joy again; now let me rejoice. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit inside me.

—*Psalm 51:1, 2, 6–8, 10 adapted*

Create a road sign. Make sure it's about Jesus!